

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 24-26, 32, 39, 43, 46, 51, 64-66, 74, and 79 as follows.

1. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An accounting method comprising:

a step of inputting money information;

a step of inputting price information ~~attached to~~ provided via a network along with
electronic ~~content~~ information ~~provided~~ by an information provider terminal, said price
information indicating a charge for use of the electronic information;

a step of judging a use permission of the electronic content information in accordance with
the money information and the price information; and

a step of processing the electronic ~~content~~ information so as to enable use of the electronic
~~content~~ information provided by the information provider in accordance with the result of judging.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the electronic ~~content~~
information to be provided is enciphered.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 25, wherein said step of
processing comprises a process of decoding the enciphered electronic ~~content~~ information.

27.- 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said money information is cash.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said money information is recorded in a recording medium.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24, further comprising a step of transmitting use information of the provided electronic ~~content~~ information.

33. - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, further comprising a step of transmitting charge distribution information to said information provider terminal in accordance with the use information.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 32, further comprising a step of performing accommodation of a use charge of the provided electronic ~~content~~ information in accordance with the use information.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein cipher communication is performed with said information provider terminal.

41.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the money information includes data indicating a type of a recording medium in which the money information is recorded, and said judging step judges the use permission of the electronic ~~content~~ information in accordance with the data indicating the type.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, further comprising a step of rewriting the amount of money in response to the result of judging.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an accounting method, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting money information;

inputting price information ~~attached to~~ provided via a network along with electronic ~~content~~ information ~~provided~~ by an information provider terminal, said price information indicating a charge for use of the electronic information;

judging a use permission of the electronic ~~content~~ information in accordance with the money information and the price information; and

processing the electronic content information so as to enable use of the electronic **content** information in accordance with the result of judging.

47.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24, further comprising a step of outputting the price information;

a step of summing up the output price information for each item of electronic **content** information; and

a step of notifying results of summing up for each item of electronic **content** information respectively to the information provider terminal.

52.-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) An accounting apparatus comprising:

means for inputting money information;

means for inputting price information ~~attached to~~ provided via a network along with electronic **content** information provided by an information provider terminal, said price information indicating a charge for use of the electronic information;

means for judging a use permission of the electronic content information in accordance with the money information and the price information; and

means for processing the electronic ~~content~~ information so as to enable use of the electronic content information in accordance with the result of judging.

65. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the electronic ~~content~~ information to be provided is enciphered.

66. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the process comprises a process of decoding the enciphered electronic ~~content~~ information.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the money information is cash.

69. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the money information is recorded in a recording medium.

70.-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 64, further comprising means for performing a step of transmitting use information of the provided electronic ~~content~~ information.

75.-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the money information includes data indicating a type of a recording medium in which the money information is recorded, and said judging means judges the use permission of the electronic ~~content~~ information in accordance with the data indicating the type.

80. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 64, further comprising means for rewriting the amount of money in response to the result of judging.

81. (Cancelled)